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THE PROMETHIUM EXCHANGE PART 30 of 31

EXCALIBUR

**FULL SCALE
FURY IN A
FISTICUFF
FINALE!**



THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE SWASHBUCKLING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS, THEY HAVE BANNED TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS...



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CAPTAIN BRITAIN,
IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
I PROVIDED
DOOM WITH ACCESS
TO THIS DIMEN--

SELF-RECRIMINATION
HAS NO PLACE IN
BATTLE, SHADOW-
CAT.

SHUNKEN!
I'VE GOT YOU,
NIGHTCRAWLER!

DANKE, MEGGAN--
THESE FIERCE WINDS
MIGHT BE THE DEATH
OF US ALL!

NOT QUITE "ALL."
WONDER MAN
AND TIERRA ARE
SAFE!

IT'S AMAZING HOW YOU
CAN GUAZZER AND
DIE AT THE SAME TIME.

QUICKSILVER,
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT ME! STOP
DOOM BEFORE HE
DESTROYS THIS
DIMENSION--AND US
ALONG WITH IT!

IT WOULD SEEM,
DEAR SISTER, I
HAVE AMPLE
OPPORTUNITY TO
RESCUE THE SCARLET
WITCH.

IRON MAN AND
PHOENIX APPEAR
TO HAVE THE
SITUATION UNDER
CONTROL.

NO! YOU STOPPED
THE SOULSWORD IN MID-
STROKE!

I'M IMPULSIVE
THAT WAY.

YOU KNOW, WE AVENGERS
SHOULD REALLY GET
ABOUT GETTING A
CELESTIAL JANTAR OF
OUR OWN.

UNTIL THE "HEART" OF
OTHERPLACE IS DESTROYED,
THIS REALM WILL NOT
REVERT TO ITS NATURAL
STATE OF PROMETHIUM!

AND YOU WON'T BE
ABLE TO USE THE
ETERNALLY-ENERGIZING
METAL TO FUEL THE
EARTH!

WHICH IS WHY THEY
REFER TO THIS AS
"SAVING THE DAY."

RAY, HOW LONG
CAN YOU HOLD
IT?

NOT...
VERY...

HER TELEKINETIC
POWERS ARE
ROOTED IN
SCIENCE--

--WHILE THIS
REALM IS
GOVERNED
BY MAGIC!

SHE SHALL SOON FALL!
THEN I SHALL STRIKE
HAVE THIS LIFELESS
DIMENSION AT MY
LEISURE.

MON...
AMBITIONS...

I'D BE HAPPY... IF
I COULD... FIGURE
OUT HOW... TO
PROGRAM MY... VCR.

IRON MAN! YOU
DARE TO TOUCH
VICTOR VON
DOOM?!

SINCE IT'S THROUGH
TWO LAYERS OF
ARMOR, I FIGURE
THAT'S SANITARY.

YOU WILL PAY
FOR THIS
EFFRONTERY!

DO YOU
ACCEPT
DINER'S
CLUB?

NON THIS IS
ENCOURAGING.

THE TEN OF US
AGAINST ONE
OF HIM--

--IS THAT
FAIR?

WAS IT FAIR OF
DOOM TO TRICK
ME INTO TAKING
HIM HERE SO HE
COULD STEAL
THE SOULSWORD?

IF WE DIDN'T TEAM UP TO
CLOSE THOSE PORTALS,
ALL OF ENSLAND WOULD
HAVE BEEN PULLED
THROUGH INTO THIS
DIMENSION BY NOW! X

* SEE LAST TWO ISSUES... T.X.



NOW,
GENTLEMAN.

"NOW?"
WHAT?

I BELIEVE
HE WAS
SPEAKING
TO US!
THE DEMON
ARMY OF
OTHERPLACE!

OF COURSE! AS
THE LAST PERSON
TO WIELD THE
SOULSWORD, DOOM
IS STILL IN
CONTROL OF THE
DEMONIC HORDES!

HEART OF THE MATTER

BOOK THREE OF THE
PROMETHEUM EXCHANGE

EXCALIBUR, CREATED BY
CLAREMONT AND DAVIS

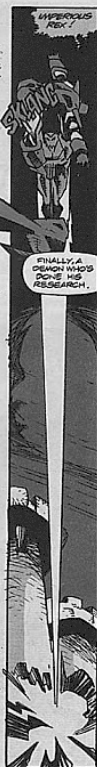
LOGGELL / BADGER /
BODOLLO / NINGATA /
KRYNAGH / DEVALDO

ARRGGHH!!

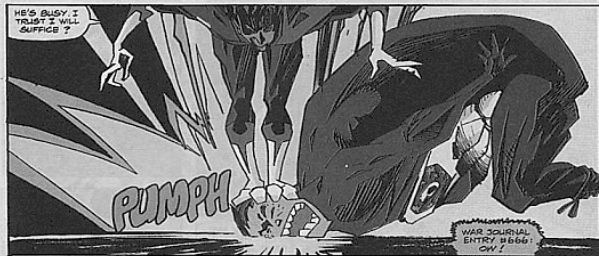
THAT PARTICULAR DEMON'S
PAIN—I CAN...FEEL IT?!

IN THE PAST, FEELINGS
THIS INTENSE WOULD
TRIGGER MY SHAPE-
SHIFTING POWERS.

SO WHY
AREN'T I
CHANGING?













X FANTASTIC
FOUR #142
8 1944
-- TERRY





I'M SAYING...

...MY ARMOR HAS YET TO BE DESTROYED.



NOW--HAVING EXPENDED ALL ITS RESERVES...

... MY ARMOR IS USELESS.



IN ASSUMING THAT WAS YOUR BEST SHOT...

ON THE CONTRARY...



... THAT WAS MERELY THE OPENING VOLLEY.

AS A RESIDENT OF THIS REALM, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT "HE WHO WIELDS THE SOUL-SWORD IS ENSCONCED IN PROWETHUM ARMOR."

AS I HAD ARMOR OF MY OWN UNTIL A MOMENT AGO...



I REJECTED THE MYSTICAL METAL OF SHEER FORCE OF WILL.



UNTIL NOW.





JUST AS I
PLANNED--THE
DESTRUCTION
OF THE HEART
HAS OPENED A
TEMPORARY
SPATIAL VORTEX
TO EARTH.



BARRING ANY UNFORESEEN
COMPLICATIONS, ALL OF
OTHERPLACE SHALL BECOME
A PROMETHIAN GRAVEYARD
FOR MY ADVERSARIES.



IT IS UN-
FORTUNATE
THAT EVERY
LIVING BEING
HERE WILL
CEASE TO
EXIST...



...I FEEL
DARGOOTH WAS
JUST BEGINNING
TO GRASP THE
SCOPE OF HIS
DESTINY.



IS HE
GONE
YET?

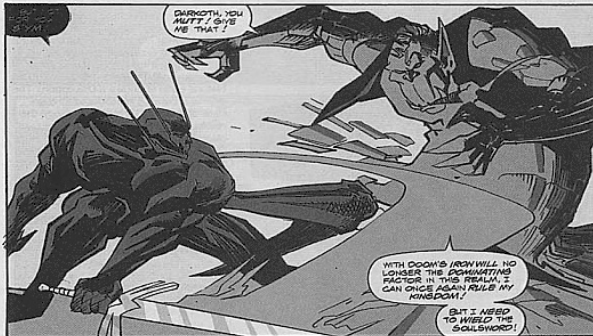
GOOD!



GOOD! YES
OR SOME
OF US

IS HE
GONE
YET?

DARGOOTH, YOU
MUTT! I GIVE
NB THAT!



WITH DOOM'S IRON WILL NO
LONGER THE DOMINATING
FACTOR IN THIS REALM, I
CAN ONCE AGAIN RULE MY
KINGDOM!

BUT I NEED
TO WIELD THE
SOULSWORD!

HEADS UP, EVERYONE!
IF STYM GETS HIS
HANDS ON THE SOUL-
SWORD... WE'LL BE IN
BIG TROUBLE!

BONK

YOU MEAN WORSE TROUBLE
THAN AN ENTIRE DIMENSION
OF RAMPAGING DEMONS
MADE OF RAY PROMETHIUM?

THE FELINE FRAULEN
HAS A POINT, MEN
FREUND.

KCK

LET'S DEAL
WITH ONE
CATASTROPHE
AT A TIME.

THIS IS NOTHING! THERE
WAS A TIME WE AVENGERS
WERE BATTLING MASTER
PANDEMONIUM...

LATER, SIMON! IF WE DON'T FIND
A WAY TO REVERSE THE PROCESS
DOOM STARTED --

-- RECONSTRUCT THE
HEART AND RETURN
THESE CREATURES TO
SOME semblance
OF LIFE...

... DOOM WILL RETURN
TO STRIP-MINE
THE PROMETHIUM
OVER OUR DEAD
BODIES.

THESE DEMONS ARE
SO... VICIOUS! THEY'RE
LASHING OUT BLINDLY!

IT'S LIKE THEY'RE JUST
ACTING OUT ALL THE HURT
AND RAGE I SENSED
EARLIER FROM DARKOTH.

HAHAHA... WE MIGHT
BE ABLE TO USE
THAT INFORMATION.

ANY IDEAS,
ANYONE?

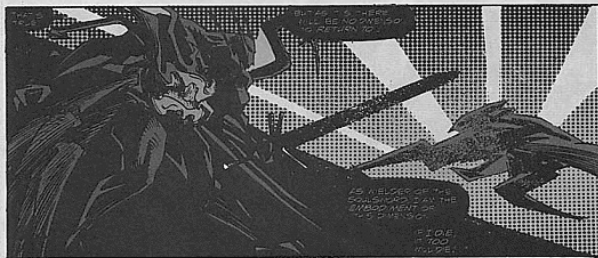
THAT'S IT! THE
ANSWER IS
OBVIOUS! ALL
WE HAVE TO...

WHIMP!

I GUESS

CAPTAIN
BRITAIN!

UNCONSCIOUS...
NATURALLY.
THAT WOULD
HAVE BEEN
TOO EASY.





NO! HE'S
SERIOUS!

HE'S GOING
TO KILL
HIMSELF!

THE OTHERS
ARE TOO FAR
AWAY TO
HEAR HIM...

...IT'S UP
TO ME!



I WILL CEASE
MYSELF IN
TWO

WITH MY DEATH
OTHERS WILL
"CEASE TO BE"

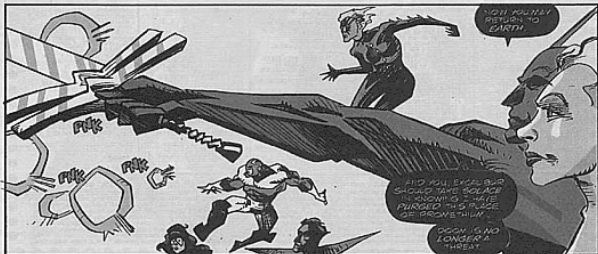
AND I'VE BEEN
KNOWING I
SHATTERED SOMES
PLANES FOR WORLD
DOMINATION!



YOU'RE WARRING / IF
YOU KILL YOURSELF,
YOU'LL DIE A COWARD.

AND THAT WOULD BE
A WASTE -- BECAUSE
YOU SPENT ALL THIS
TIME HOLDING ON TO
LIFE. THERE MUST
BE A REASON!







WON'T YOU
COME BACK
WITH ME --
WITH US?

SOVEREIGN

WHY YOU
NEED AN
HOST

SCOOBY
MEGGAN

AND SO HE SITS,
PROTECTOR OF
OTHERPLACE.

FOR YEARS HE HAS
FELT ALONE IN A
DIMENSION FULL
OF DEMONS

NOW HE IS COMPLETELY
ALONE -- BUT HE'S
REGAINED HIS HUMANITY.

AND HE BELIEVES IT WAS
A FAIR EXCHANGE.

Sword Strokes

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
KELLY CORVISE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I've been collecting EXCALIBUR since issue #13. When my friend brought it for me I was not sure I was going to like it. Then when I started to read it I found out that I liked it. I liked the "Cross-Time Caper." My favorite series was "Girls' School From Heck." In issue #33 I have one question and it calls for a No-Prize. In issue #33 Nightcrawler teleported twice but in back issues Nightcrawler said he could only teleport once. So how about a No-Prize?

Chris Awtry
1612 Walnut Drive
Chula Vista, CA 92011

Glad you like EXCALIBUR so much, Chris, but we're sorry to tell you that there *isn't* a No-Prize winging its way to you! Nightcrawler is recuperating from injuries, and in past issues when he was weaker, he could not teleport more than once in a row. As Nightcrawler recovers, he is gaining back his old strength and was able to teleport twice by then! Sorry!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Oh gosh! Oh golly!! Oh WOW!!! That's all I can say about the new story line. "Girls' School From Heck" was just great. I'm glad to see Kitty back with the team and the appearances of Mesmero and Fenris came as a welcome surprise.

Kurt has to be my favorite character. His style and panache are unequaled. There doesn't happen to be a fan club for our favorite German super type, does there? I don't mean to ruffle any feathers but could we see Kurt at least try a different costume? The red, white and black one is just great but it's getting a little old.

Last but not least, could the team members begin answering the letter pages? Their replies would be interesting, to say the least. So *Leven Sie Whol* and Make Mine Marvel.

C. Brock Harmon
108 Brock Street
Ivel, KY 41642

The team is so busy right now, C. We just wouldn't feel right about asking them to take time out of their hectic super hero schedule to answer letters!

Dear Sword Strokes,

The current issues #32-34, "Girls' School From Heck," are great. Having Kitty lead the school to somewhat of a victory (the school is still open) and reunite her with the rest of the team is just part of this great story. The Mesmero problem was handled stupendously. I

love how Lockheed scorched him, and to have Fenris defeated so easily was great!

Please have a few cross-overs with other titles. The one with THOR was awesome.

Keep up the great, very great work.

Kasey Stephan
577 Walnut St.
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Kasey, you weren't the only one who loved Lockheed's trick! We received lots of letters about it -- seems everyone enjoyed it!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I've got a few things to say about EXCALIBUR. First of all, EXCALIBUR is without a doubt, one of the best comics out on the stand. But (there's always a but), there are a few things that definitely need to change, especially in the character area.

Rachel (the sexy redhead), needs to put her abilities to use. I know for a fact that she can do better than she is doing now. One minute she's weakminded and easily beaten, and then she turns around and you make her superhumanly powerful. Sometimes she doesn't even seem like she's a part of the team.

That's another thing you need to work on -- teamwork. EXCALIBUR fights together yet they use no strategies, no teamwork!

Meggan also needs to improve. I know if she really wanted to, she could kick where it counts. Yet, like Rachel, she doesn't even seem to be using her abilities to a fraction of their true potential. Finally, you need to get Kitty (Shadowcat) to pick up that Sword!

In conclusion, I would like to say -- keep up the excellent work and get some real action going.

So until Rachel's mine. Make Mine Marvel!

Scott Smith
4249 Harwood St.
Fremont, CA 94508

You've got to remember, Scott, these are *people*. They have doubts and problems just like all of us. Rachel may be superhumanly powerful -- but she's still *human*. Meggan, too! Try to keep this in mind and perhaps their actions will seem more reasonable.

We bet you're enjoying the current story... where Kitty finally graps the Soulsword!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I hope you will pardon me, I came in late and therefore have doubtless missed out on a few things. Thus, I have a few

questions to ask you:

1. How old is Meggan?
2. How old is Captain Britain?
3. How many more members is EXCALIBUR going to get?
4. How do I reach the creators of EXCALIBUR?

Thank you for your time.

Jim Page
206 Hill Ave.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-4933

Welcome aboard, Jim! The ages of Meggan and Captain Britain have not yet been discussed in EXCALIBUR -- guess you'll just have to keep reading! There will be a new face in the team within the next six or seven months, but we don't want to spoil the surprise! You can always contact your favorite Marvel creative folks by writing to them in care of the address atop this page. We'll forward the mail to them!

Hope this helps!

Dear EXCALIBUR,

I have one question for you guys: If the Phoenix of this reality in EXCALIBUR is supposed to be the only one across the entire Multiverse how do you explain the many times Phoenix has appeared in WHAT IF...? The WHAT IF... stories are supposed to come from other realities, so what's your explanation?

Until Wolve slays the Living Tribunal Make Mine Marvel.

Juan Sanchez
7107 Ave. J
Houston, TX 77011

WHAT IF... is not part of the "real" Marvel Universe, Juan. It's fantasy -- fictional fiction!

HEY, EVERYBODY!

Brad Vancata created the colors for EXCALIBUR #37, not Gynia Oliver, as was noted. No, this is not a mistake -- we're Marvel! We never make mistakes!

